

**Commercial Thinning
Decision Document**

**Frazier Mountain Fuels Reduction Project
Environmental Assessment OR-035-01-15**

**Baker Field Office
Vale District
Bureau of Land Management
Baker City, Oregon**

The Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Frazier Mountain Fuels Reduction Project dated 1/31/03 decided to implement Alternative B for the non-timber sale activities. This DR can be viewed at the BLM Vale District website at www.or.blm.gov/Vale. The DR states:

Timing of Decision

“This decision record constitutes the decision document for all non-timber sale activities described under Alternative B, EA #OR-035-01-15 in accordance with 43 CFR 5003 – Administrative Remedies. The decision document for the timber sale portion will be published at a later date in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2.”

When the above decision was made, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had two contracting options to implement the decision. These were procurement contracts to implement the non-timber sale activities and timber sale contracts to implement the commercial thinning. After the decision was made the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (PL 108-7) was passed by Congress. This bill authorizes the BLM to use stewardship contracts to meet various land management objectives. Stewardship contracts allow trading of goods for services, where the value of commercial timber would help offset the cost of hazardous fuels reduction. Using this contracting methodology the commercial thinning would be conducted with a service contract rather than a timber sale contract. The same service contract will include the fuels treatments described in Alternative B.

The original DR did not include a Decision for the timber sale actions analyzed in the EA/FONSI. This Decision documentation provides background for the decision on the former timber sale portion of the Frazier Mountain Fuels Reduction Project. Therefore, my decision is to select the commercial thinning described in Alternative B, EA #OR-035-01-15 as the timber harvest activity for the Frazier Mountain Fuels Reduction Project.

Protest Period

Protests of this decision to commercial thin, as described in Alternative B, EA #OR-035-01-15, must be filed within 15 days of the publication of the Decision Notice in the newspaper in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3 –Administrative Remedies. Such Notice can be expected to be published in the La Grande Observer on the date of this Decision Documentation and FONSI.

/S/ Todd Kuck

6-25-03

for Penelope Dunn Woods
Field Manager
Baker Field Office, Vale District

Date